

METHOD OF BLEACHING STAINED FABRICS**Patent number:** EP1208187**Publication date:** 2002-05-29**Inventor:** DELROISSE MICHEL GILBERT JOSE (GB); JONES DAVID ANDREW ROSS (GB); SMITH RICHARD GEORGE (GB); WELLS JOHN FRANCIS (GB)**Applicant:** UNILEVER PLC (GB); UNILEVER NV (NL)**Classification:**

- International: C11D3/39; D06L3/02; C11D17/04

- european:

Application number: EP20000960390 20000804**Priority number(s):** WO2000EP07563 20000804; WO1999GB02878 19990901; GB20000004847 20000229**Also published as:** WO0116269 (A1)

Abstract not available for EP1208187

Abstract of correspondent: **WO0116269**

A method for bleaching stained fabrics is provided by washing a stained fabric in an aqueous wash liquor in the presence of a wash additive that comprises a ligand that forms a transition metal complex as bleach catalyst, the complex catalysing bleaching of stains by atmospheric oxygen. The wash additive preferably comprises an iron complex comprising the ligand N,N-bis(pyridin-2-yl-methyl)-1,1-bis(pyridin-2-yl)-1-aminoethane. One or both of the wash additive and the wash liquor are substantially devoid of peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or -generating bleach system. The wash additive provides improved or broader stain profile bleaching.

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